

The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, June 24. 1693.

Quest. 1. **I**N the further Account of the Tryals of the New-England Witches, Published this Week, I find the following passages. In p. 10. 'tis said — "Many Murders are supposed to be committed by Witchcrafts, for the Afflicted say they see Coffins and Bodies in Shrowds rising up, and looking on the Accused, crying, *Vengeance, Vengeance on the Murderers* : — Many other strange things were transacted before the Court on the time of their Examination, and especially one thing, which I had like to have forgot, which is this : One of the Accused, whilst the rest were under Examination, was drawn up by a Rope to the Roof of the House where he was, and would have been choaked in all probability, had not the Rope been presently cut ; the Rope hung at the Roof by some invisible Tye, for there was no hole where it went up, but after it was cut, the remainder of it was found in the Chamber just above, lying by the very place where it hung down. Again in p. 11. of the same Book, I find this remarkable passage : "No longer since than the last Winter there was much Discourse in London concerning a Gentlewoman unto whom her dead Son, (and another whom she knew not) had appeared. Being then in London, (says the Reverend Author) I was willing to satisfy my self by enquiring into the Truth of what was reported, and on Feb. 23. 1693. my Brother (who is now a Pastor to a Congregation in that City) and I discoursed the Gentlewoman spoken of, she told us, that a Son of hers, who had been a very Civil Young Man, but more Airy in his Temper than was pleasing to his serious Mother, being dead, she was much concerned in her Thoughts about his Condition in the other World, but a Fortnight after his Death, he appeared to her, saying, *Mother, you are solicitous about my Spiritual Welfare, trouble your self no more, for I am happy, and so vanished.* Gent. Your Impartial Thoughts are desired upon the foregoing passages ?

Ans. There's no Reason to be given for supernatural Actions ; for Reason is Natural to a Man, as being Coessential with him, and it has its Powers and Restrictions, as the Eye, the Taste, &c. but no Man hears with his Eyes, or reasons (adequately) upon things of which he can have no Idea. The Matter of Fact in this first Question has very great Advantages to persuade the Truth of it, since a Person of Credit and Reputation is here to be spoke with in Town that was an Eye-witness of it, as Our Bookseller can inform any Inquisitive Person. There are more Instances like this, as Persons creeping on all four upon the Ceiling, with their Backs downwards like Flies, but what Legerdemain it is that the Devil uses in these Cases, We know not, nor are we ashamed to confess our Ignorance in it.

As for the 2d. Question, 'tis much o'th' same stamp, and surprizing Admiration, for all Questions of this Nature is instead of both Question and Answer ; 'twill not perhaps be altogether useless to observe, that 'tis more than probable, that those Persons that we read of in the Gospel as possessed with Devils and Evil Spirits, and afterwards in the time of the Primitive Christians, were persons much in the same Circumstances as these now a days, which we call bewitch'd ; for 'tis evident, that by any Humane Power such things are impossible which are frequently recorded a-late, therefore they must be done by some Power superior to the Humane, which must be either Good or Bad ; not good for all the ridiculous Gestures, the blasphemous Speeches, &c. which are often utter'd in these Fits, (properly possessions) are the Effect of Devilish Operations, and the power of Hell.

Sirs, Reading your Mercury Vol. 7. Numb. 1. Qu. 3. about 12 Months since, wherein you assert, That the Bodies of Enoch and Elijah are as certainly in Heaven as Christs, it invited my Curiosity to desire an Answer to the following Questions, which I sent about 10 Months since : But having no Answer, otherwise than that you received them, and supposing them to be lost, is the Reason of my second Rehearsal of them, desiring that you would be pleased to Answer them with the next Conveniency.

Quest. 2. *Why may not the Bodies of Enoch and Elijah be buried immediately by the hand of God, as Moses's was, and yet be properly said they should not see Death, they not seeing it in the manner the rest of Mankind do ?*

Ans. We have Reason to believe, the last being recorded in Sacred Writ, and as much Reason to believe the contrary of the first, since the translation of Enoch is express, and the carrying up of Elijah as clearly set down, and his Successor reprov'd those that thought he was not carry'd away to Heaven, but would seek him upon the Hills, &c. thinking the Spirit of God would let him down again.

Quest. 3. *What Reason can you give, that the body of Elijah should be in Heaven more than that of Moses, since we find no difference in the Transfiguration ?*

Ans. The Reason is sufficient in the last Answer : But suppose We admit your Objection, that there was no difference in the Transfiguration upon the Mount, yet it follows not, that Moses must necessarily be also translated into Heaven, since 'twas as possible for the Soul of Moses to assume an Aerial, or other body, for to appear visible, as it was for Elijah to appear in his own Glorify'd Body ; but the Case is yet past Dispute, if you consider the 9th. Verse. Chap. 17th. of St. Mark. then, where this appearance is expressly call'd a Visitation.

Quest. 4. *If the Bodies of Enoch and Elijah were translated with their Souls into Heaven, how will you reconcile this Scripture, 1 Cor. 15. 20, 21, 22, 23. especially the 20 and 23 Verses, since their translation was long before Christ's Ascension ?*

Ans. Those Texts are easily reconcil'd, for our Saviour was the first-fruits of them that slept. (or dyed) and ascended Corporeally into Heaven. 'Tis true, Enoch and Elias went thither before, but they never dyed, which our Saviour did, but were translated Alive, as these shall be, who shall be alive at the second coming of Christ.

Quest. 5. *Gentlemen, This is the third time that a Case of Conscience hath been put to you, but not answered, viz. Whether a Man or Woman may safely say the Lord's Prayer, who is not in Charity with all Men ? or whether it were not better leave out that Paragraph, (As We forgive them that Trespas against Us) or not say the Lord's Prayer at all ? this has put a stop to some for not going to the Holy Communion, therefore your Answer is speedily required by your Servant, &c.*

Ans. This is not the first time that we have already Answered several Questions very near this, but since 'tis a Business of no little Concern, We here add, that there's a deal of Absurdity in the supposition ; for tho' God Almighty usually does it, yet what reason have We to believe that he should treat us better than We do one another ; for 'tis also to be consider'd, that tho' he is more patient and forbearing than Man, yet when he does avenge himself, the Punishment is not like that of a Man. This Question, *Whether 'tis safe to say the Lord's*

Lord's Prayer when one is not in Charity with the World, does intimate as if the Person was very willing to have a License to be wicked and revengeful; but the Querist may be assur'd, with a little reflection, 'that 'tis not even safe living out of Charity, for who can promise himself another Moment, or (if that was possible) the Grace of forsaking such a Vice as is the Devil's chief Character, and is very opposite to the true Christian's Qualification of Forgiving ones very Enemies.

Quest. 6. Gentlemen, There is now, as has been ever since January last past, young Frogs (in a dry hollow parcel of Ground in Redriff, at the South-end on the West-side of a Rope-yard, next to Fontaine-Stairs) at their first appearing they were very small, such as we expect in June from them which were spawn'd in March by Generation of Animal Parents of the same Species: Quest. Whether these were produced Oviparous, Viviparous, or Spontaneous, from putrefaction, no Animal Parents of the same Species being abroad to generate them, nor any Spawn to be found, nor the hollow ground holding Water to vivify such Spawn? Discourfing of these Frogs, and the Worm mention'd in your Mercury, an Old Gentleman affirm'd that to his Knowledge about 50 Years since in a Shower of Rain there fell with it here in London an innumerable company of small Frogs: And he knew a Woman that was violently Distracted, and upon the Advice of a Sea-Surgeon's Widdow had a Medicine directed which brought from her several strange Worms, upon which her Dilegium left her. Mites in Cheese, Lice in young Children, cum multis, &c. God's Instruments, Frogs and Lice as they were in Egypt, so now to puzzle and confound the Magies.

Ans. We acknowledge our selves Oblig'd by this Relation, and shall take Care to make some Observations upon 'em the beginning of the next Year, that We may be better able to give an Account of 'em; however in the mean time, the publishing of this will no doubt set other inquisitive Persons at Work, to make all possible Observations at this time, which if any one does, and will be please to send 'em in to us, they shall be as gratefully receiv'd and published; only at present we dare be positive that they are produced Oviparous, and by Parents of the same Species, since Frogs can't be produc'd otherwise, unless by the immediate Finger of God.

Quest. 7. Gentlemen, Being at a Play, call'd (if I mistake not) Henry the Second, King of England, I saw one representing an Abbot, others Confessors, &c. the matter which they spake did plainly accuse those Persons of Ambition, Pride, Covetousness, and shameful Hypocrisie, but in such words which seemed to hint at all without exception, and reproach all the Clergy, as well Protestants as Papists, as if every one were guilty of the same Vices, &c. Qu. Whether these Satyrical Expressions, when indefinitely, and without exception deliver'd, and the word Church and other Sacred things so highly spoken of, doth not bring contempt on the Protestant Clergy, as well as a just one on the Popish Priests, and thereby encourage both Atheists and the prophane in their evil Opinions and Practices? and if so, why Care ought not to be taken to regulate these things, and when persons pretend to correct the Wicked, they be not more cautious in ordering their Stripes so, as not to lash the Innocent? I could instance many things more of like Nature, but looking on you, Gentleman, as not being ignorant of either, I shall only desire you to be as Judicious and Copious in your Answer as possible may be, both to serve the Publick, and Yours, &c.

Ans. We leave this to be consider'd by those above us, tho' our publishing it as sent does determine our Judgment in the Case.

Advertisements.

Travels through Flanders, Holland, Germany, Sweden and Denmark; containing an Account of what is most Remarkable in those Countries: Particularly a Description of the Fortified Towns in Flanders and Holland: With Exact Draughts of Dunkirk, Maelricht, Charleroy and Aeth: Together with Necessary Instructions for Travellers, and a List of the Common Passage Boats in Holland, with the Hours of their going out. Written by an English Gentleman, who resided many Years in Holland in a Publick Capacity.

London, Printed for R. Taylor near Stationers-Hall. 1693

A Further Account of the Tryals of the New-England Witches, with the Observations of a Person that was upon the place six or seven days, when the suspected Witches were first taken into Examination: To which is added Cases of Conscience concerning Witchcrafts, and Evil Spirits personating Men. Written at the Request of the Ministers of New-England, by Increase Mather, President of Harvard-Colledge. Price One Shilling. Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry, of whom may be had The Third Edition of Mr. Cotton Mather's first Account of the Tryals of the New-England Witches, printed on the same size with this last Account, that they may bind up together.

Observations on the Venereal Disease. By Charles Peter, Chyrurgeon. Wherein is Explicated the several Causes and Signs of the Infection, with its various Effects, together with the true way of Curing the said Disease, and all the Accidents that attend it. Price Bound One Shilling. Sold by the Author at his House in St. Martins-lane, near Long-Acre.

At the Outroppers-Office, the West End of the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, will be Exposed to Sale on Wednesday the 28th. and Thursday the 29th. of this instant June an extraordinary Collection of Paintings and Limnings of several Eminent Persons lately deceased, by way of Mining, a Method not hitherto used in England. The Sale beginning precisely at Three of the Clock each Afternoon, and to be sold by Day-light. Catalogues may be had at the place of Sale.

Elixir Stomachicum: Or, the great Cordial Elixir for the Stomach; of a delicate Flavour, and pleasant bitterish Taste: Not Purging, but Cordial only; to be drank at any time, (but especially in a Morning) in any Liquor, as Ale, Tea, Mum, Canary, White-Wine, A Dram of Brandy, &c. It makes the best Purl in the World in Ale, and in Canary, Tea, &c. very pleasant and wholesome, far exceeding Purl made of Wormwood, which (being so hot and drying) hurts the Sight, and dries the Blood very much: This having the Quintessence of all the Ingredients of the bitter Draught in it, and many other excellent Stomachicks and Antiscorbuticks brought into a small quantity, as that 30 or 40 Drops is a Dose; you may make it at your pleasure in a Glass of White-Wine, Tea, or other Liquor; it procures a good Appetite, helps Digestion, expels all Wind, Strengthens the Stomach, purifies the Blood, and destroys the Scurvy, with many other Virtues mentioned in the Bills given with it; but these six things (especially) it does beyond belief, without you experience it. Price One Shilling each Bottle.

It is to be Sold by Mr. John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry; and at these Coffee-houses, Viz. Symonds-lan in Chancery-Lane, at Vigore's in the Old Pallace-Yard, Westminster, Victualling-Office at Tower-Hill, Man's at Charing-Cross, Essex at Whitechappel, North's in King-street by Guild-Hall, Richard's at Temple-bar, Smythers in Thames-street, Will's in Covent Garden, Blacketts at Spittle-fields, Wells at the Postern in Aldermanbury, John's in Fuller's Rents, Buckeridge's without Aldersgate, Hamet's on London-bridge, Brown's at Wapping Old-fairs, John's by the Kings-bench, Jonathan's in Exchange Alley, Smith's at Lambeth, by the Church, Cleve's at Greenwich, by the Church; by Mr. Tho. Collet. Jun. near the Hermitage, Tobacco-nist; Mr. Leavinston, Fruiterer at the Royal Exchange, and Tho. Howkins in George-yard in Lombard-street; the Author having appointed him, only (beside himself) to Sell it Wholesale, any Person wanting it to Dispose of or Sell again, may be there furnished.

LONDON, Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry, 1693.